

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OES-06

FEA-01 AID-05 ERDA-05 COME-00 EB-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8480

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PLEASE PASS EPA, CEQ, DOI

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EI EAGR EPAP SENV

SUBJ: EPA ADMINISTRATOR CALL TO GOI MINISTER FOR LANDS

1. I ACCOMPANIED EPA ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN ON HIS COURTESY
CALL TO GOI MINISTER OF LANDS TOM FITZPATRICK.

2. FITZPATRICK EXPLAINED FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF LANDS,
WHICH INCLUDES WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND FORESTS. NEW WILDLIFE
PROTECTION LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY DAIL.
POLLUTION CONTROL PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL
PLANNING BODIES UNDER MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND
THERE APPEAR TO BE NO NATIONAL CONTROLS. TRAIN MENTIONED
IRISH PRESS REPORTS OF MAJOR FISH KILLS DUE TO RIVER
POLLUTION. FITZPATRICK STATED THAT IN IRELAND'S PRESENT
STATE OF DEVELOPMENT THE NEED TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRY HAD TO
OUTWEIGHT POLLUTION ABATEMENT. TRAIN REPLIED THAT ADEQUATE
PROVISION FOR POLLUTION CONTROL COULD USUALLY BE INCLUDED IN
THE DESIGN AND FINANCING OF NEW INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES
WITHOUT IMPOSING EXCESSIVE COSTS. HOWEVER, IT IS APPARENT
THAT POLLUTION CONTROL IS RECEIVING LITTLE OR NO PRIORITY FROM
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GOI.

3. TRAIN BRIEFLY DESCRIBED USG ORGANIZATION AND EPA AS WELL AS DOI'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE. FITZPATRICK STATED THAT GOI DOES HAVE AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE WITH ADVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENT. TRAIN STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD HAD SUCH A COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CEQ IN 1970 BUT THAT US EXPERIENCE WAS THAT SUCH INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEES NORMALLY HAVE TO MAKE SO MANY TRADEOFFS TO ACCOMMODATE THE DIFFERENT INTERESTS REPRESENTED THAT POLICY POSITIONS USUALLY REFLECT THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR RATHER THAN STRONG LEADERSHIP.

4. TRAIN ASKED WHETHER GOI EXPECTED TO RATIFY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION WHICH IT HAD SIGNED AT WASHINGTON IN 1973 AND FITZPATRICK SAID HE THOUGHT RATIFICATION WOULD COME AFTER PASSAGE OF THE WILDLIFE LEGISLATION NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PARLIAMENT. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CONVENTION AND THE LEGISLATION WAS NOT MADE CLEAR. TRAIN URGED THAT GOI RATIFY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. I INQUIRED ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN TAISCE (THE NATIONAL TRUST), A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND HERITAGE PROTECTION, AND FITZPATRICK DESCRIBED IT AS USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE. AN TAISCE IS PRIVATELY ADMINISTERED AND FUNDED BUT BY LAW ALL LOCAL PLANNING DECISIONS ARE REFERRED TO IT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT. ITS MEMBERS, ALL VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDE LAWYERS, ARCHITECTS, GEOLOGISTS, PLANNERS, ETC.

6. ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN AND I HAD A LUNCH MEETING TODAY, OCTOBER 15, WITH DR JACKSON, CHAIRMAN OF AN TAISCE, PRESIDENT O HEOCHA OF UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL, NICHOLAS ROBINSON, PROMINENT IRISH CONSERVATIONIST AND SOLICITOR, AND SECRETARY DUGGAN OF WILDLIFE/FORESTRY DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF LANDS. CURLEY

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